

COMMERCIAL WASTE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

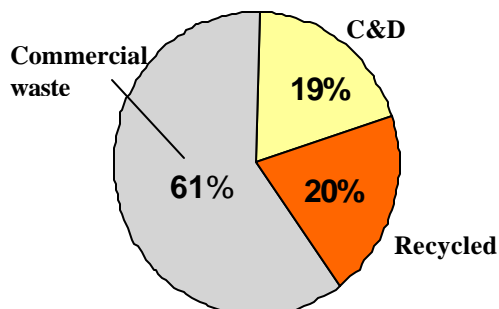
New Hampshire is currently experiencing some of the greatest economic growth in the state's history. With more products being sold, houses being built and people visiting our state, the waste generated and disposed of in New Hampshire continues to increase.

Commercial waste is any waste generated by or at a business entity. DES collects commercial waste generation data by looking at employment and industry waste generation. New Hampshire's economy is diverse, however, the retail and service sectors are the largest employment groups in the state. Restaurants and food service employ the most people in the retail sector, while medical/health services are the largest service industries within the state. Understanding the commercial sources of waste is important to determining the best management and diversion plans for the state.

Commercial Waste Disposal Estimation

There is no direct waste disposal reporting required of private industry. DES estimates total commercial waste disposal in New Hampshire through Annual Facility Reports submitted to DES by municipalities and private waste disposal or treatment facilities. In 1999 commercial waste was estimated at 496,801 tons. Factoring in 158,995 tons of construction and demolition waste generated by commercial builders and demolition contractors, about 655,796 tons, or 58% of the state's total waste disposal is estimated to be from commercial sources.

1999 Commercial Waste Breakdown



DES also models commercial waste disposal using employment and employee waste generation data from actual field sampling by business type. Our most recent disposal model indicates 575,884 employees should generate approximately 779,026 tons of waste. The range (655,796 to 779,026) suggests that between 10-20% of commercial waste is either mixed into the residential waste category or exported. This is highly likely as many transfer stations accept commercial solid waste.

Commercial Recycling: Finding the Floor

Over the last several years, DES has conducted a telephone survey of large businesses to determine a minimum commercial recycling tonnage.

Approximately 118 commercial entities were surveyed, including large grocery (e.g., Shaws, Demoulas) and retail (e.g., Walmart, Ames) stores, recycling processors, paper companies, waste haulers/ brokers, and universities. In 1999, 163,258 tons of recycled glass, paper, plastics and cardboard were reportedly recycled according to the survey. Given the 655,796 tons of commercial waste, a minimum recycling rate of approximately 20% is obtained. It is important to stress that this is a *minimum recycling number* and that an exact number is not possible without a more formal reporting process. It is possible that commercial recycling could be significantly higher, which is why DES continues to expand the survey to include more of the significant contributors to the commercial recycling stream.

Commercial and Municipal Partnerships:

Businesses have several options for handling their solid waste. The most popular option is to hire a private hauler to simply take it away without recycling, while others have it hauled or self haul it to the local transfer station. Many transfer stations charge businesses a tip fee for each ton of waste, require recycling in order to access the facility, and issue fines if rules are not followed. However, a number of communities do not allow any commercial use of municipal facilities. Municipal facility managers and town officials often worry that accepting commercial waste will not be cost effective, will overload the facility's capacity, or raise contamination issues. Often these issues can be avoided with some advance planning.

A number of communities solicit commercial recycling in order to generate revenue for the facility, often paying for new equipment and staff. Littleton, Plymouth, and Keene, in particular, actively recruit the business community to recycle at the town facility and benefit from their use. Municipal contracts with waste haulers, local infrastructure and close proximity can be used to the advantage of local business and, at the same time, could result in more municipal revenue through the sale of recycled materials. If you would like to find out more about commercial recycling in New Hampshire, call Planning & Community Assistance Section at 271-3713.

CONCORD TRIES SATELLITE COLLECTION

The City of Concord’s residents wanted increased access to free recycling services. Concord’s Solid Waste Advisory Committee was also concerned about the recent increased cost of disposal due to the large volumes of trash being taken to the Wheelabrator Incinerator in Penacook.

To address both concerns, the City will establish low cost satellite collections which is an option for bulking recyclables in easy access locations. The project was approved by the City Council and will be funded as a 6-month pilot program. Further funding is dependent upon the success of recycling collection and cost savings from diversion.

Two locations in highly populated residential areas were selected to host the satellite collection containers. One is located in South Concord and the other is in Penacook. Waste Management, Inc. (WMI) will place the roll off containers in these

locations and collect commingled glass, plastic, and aluminum, as well as mixed paper and newspaper. Trash, white goods and bulky wastes will still go to the transfer station or be picked up by contracted services. If successful, Vanessa Ghiden, Management Analyst for the City of Concord, would like to place additional collection containers at other sites around Concord.

Concord is making other strides to help increase access and diversion. WMI will increase the hours of the transfer station by staying open until 3:00 pm on Saturdays. In November, Concord added mixed paper to its collection at the TS/RC. The City is giving a tour of the transfer station on Concord’s Public Access TV, and the Solid Waste Advisory Committee is also looking into curbside collection of recyclables for residents.

WATCH FOR ANNUAL FACILITY REPORT FORMS

The DES Annual Facility Report Forms for the 2000 calendar year are prepared and will be mailed to all solid waste facilities in mid-February. The report is due back March 31, 2001. If you do not receive your report forms or need assistance, contact Parker Morgan at (603) 271-5380.

DES CALENDAR OF SOLID WASTE FACILITY OPERATOR TRAINING

The 2001 training schedule for the Department of Environmental Services’ (DES) Solid Waste Operator Training and Certification Program is listed below and is available on the DES at www.des.state.nh.us/pcas. At this site, you will also be able to download application forms or register for workshops on-line. For further information, contact Pat Hannon at 271-2928 or by email at phannon@des.state.nh.us.

- March 14-15 Solid Waste Operator Certification Course
- March 29 Household Hazardous Waste Workshop
- April 10 The Nuts and Bolts of Supervision
- April 25 Ergonomics: The New Rule
- May 2 Mock Department of Labor Safety Survey
- May 17 Confined Space Entry
- May 23 DES Mercury Reduction Strategy & Tour of Wheelabrator
- June 6 Pyrolysis
- June 21 Chipper and Chainsaw Safety at the Rye TS/RC
- July 11 America Recycles Day Workshop to be held at the Littleton TS/RC
- July 18 Plymouth TS/RC Workshop on Paper Recycling
- July 24 CFC Recycling Certification Information
- August 6 Managing Used Oil & Automotive Waste at the Milford TS
- Aug. 21-23 3-Day Household Hazardous Waste Management Course
- September Annual Solid Waste Conference
- Sept. 25 Household Hazardous Waste Refresher Class
- Oct. 17 USDOT Regulations Update
- Nov. 14 Delivering Exceptional Service



Who will be our 2000th Operator?

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CONCORD NH 03301
PERMIT NO. 1478

Waste Management Division
6 Hazen Drive
Concord NH 03301-6509

